

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

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SUBJECT Discussion of Farm Collectivization in DDR

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1. In his address before the Sixth Conference of the SED Central Committee in June 1951, Hermann Matern, head of the Central Control Committee, stated that the Party was faced with a widespread discussion among the DDR agricultural population of allegedly imminent collectivization measures. In describing to the assembled student body of the SED Karl Marx Academy the resolutions passed by the Sixth Conference, Fred Oelsner mentioned that this unwelcome discussion among the farmers had been started by RIAS broadcasts. As a result of the RIAS reports on the subject, it had become necessary to issue instructions to the SED Land Directorates of Brandenburg and Mecklenburg for the initiation of a broad "enlightenment" campaign among the farming population designed to refute the "RIAS lies" concerning collectivization.

2. A usually well-informed functionary of the SED has commented that RIAS, in raising and emphasizing the contentious issue of collectivization of farms in the DDR, has placed the SED in an embarrassing position. In an unpublished speech given in 1920, Stalin cautioned against that strategy of the foes of Bolshevism which raised delicate issues, thereby forcing the Communist Party to deal with them at a time not of its own choosing\*.

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[REDACTED] Comment: Source believes that the SED still lacks the skill and sophistication of the CPSU in evading or postponing the discussion of untimely problems.)

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